

and

mounting structure joined to said body expand, and accommodating mounting of the device on such a tape at a location adjacent the tape's outer end, and in such a manner that different workpiece surface-gripping projection elements that are present in said row in said perimeter structure are operatively located on, and in spaced relation to, opposite sides of the tape's nominal plane, and with said elements generally extending toward the tape.

Claim 12. (Amended) A workpiece surface-gripping device removably joinable selectively adjacent the outer end of an elongate, ribbon-like, and generally planar linear measuring tape said device comprising

a generally planar gripper body which has the form of a closed plane having a perimeter formed with plural, spaced, linearly-distributed, workpiece surface-gripping projection elements and

snap-fit mounting structure joined to said body and adapted for fitting of the device onto such a tape, with the plane of the gripper body substantially paralleling the plane of the tape-end projection, and with said projection elements generally extending from the plane of the gripper body toward such tape.

Claim 13. (Amended) A tape-measuring device comprising

an elongate, ribbon-like and generally nominally planar measuring tape having an exposed free end, and

a workpiece surface-gripping device joined to said tape adjacent the tape's said free end, said surface-gripping device including

a gripper body having a generally planar body expanse in the form of a closed plane with perimeter structure which generally circumsurrounds said body expanse, said perimeter structure being formed with a row of plural, spaced, perimeter-distributed workpiece surface-gripping projection elements which project from the plane of the body expanse toward an attached measuring tape, and

mounting structure joined to said body expanse, and directly mounting said surface-gripping device on said tape's free end in such a manner that different workpiece surface-gripping elements that are present in said perimeter structure are operatively located on, and in spaced relation to, opposite sides of the tape's nominal plane, with these elements generally extending toward said tape.--

REMARKS

In the Final Office action, the Examiner finally rejected claims 1, 2, 4-6, 12 and 13, all of the claims in the Application, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 5,894,677 to Hoffman in view of U. S. Patent No. 1,102,436 to Richardson. Claims 1, 12 and 13 have hereby been amended to place all claims in this case in conditions for allowance.

Applicants strongly assert that Hoffman is not an appropriate reference to support a claims rejection, and have therefore filed this Continuing Prosecution Application to make certain claim changes, and to seek thoughtful reconsideration of the Hoffman-supported § 103 rejection. If Applicants are, as they believe, correct, then all claims now presented in this case are clearly patentable and allowable.

As is plainly set forth now in all claims in this case, on the basis of entry of this